

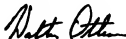
Remarks

Claims 10 to 12 are cancelled and claims 13 to 15 are added. Claims 13 to 15 are added as dependent claims subsidiary to claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1 to 9 and 13 to 15 are pending in this application of which only claim 1 is in independent form.

The applicants elect the claims of Group I, namely, claims 1 to 9, for further prosecution.

Applicants respectfully request that claims 13 to 15 also be examined as they are all dependent directly or indirectly from claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,



Walter Ottesen
Reg. No. 25,544

Walter Ottesen
Patent Attorney
P.O. Box 4026
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20885-4026

Phone: (301) 869-8950

Date: December 13, 2002

13. (Amended) The tank of claim 1, wherein said A work apparatus includes comprising:

an apparatus housing;

a tank for holding an operating substance and said tank

being disposed within said apparatus housing;

said tank housing having a tank interior and including a first housing part; and, a second housing part connected to said first housing part and defining said tank interior conjointly therewith;

10 a filter wall for trapping contaminants contained in said operating substance and said filter wall being configured as one
12 piece with ~~one of~~ said first ~~and second~~ housing parts;
said filter wall extending over the interior cross section
15 of said tank so as to partition said tank housing into at least first and second spaces;
16 said tank including a fill opening for filling said
17 operating substance into said first space ~~and an outflow~~
18 connection through which said operating substance is drawn from said second space;

20 said outflow connection being disposed in said second space downstream of said filter wall so that said contaminants are prevented by said filter wall from clogging said outflow connection; and,

25 said second housing part is being defined by said apparatus housing.

14. (Amended) The tank work apparatus of claim 9, claim 13, wherein said work apparatus includes an apparatus housing is in the form of an attachment flange.

15. (Amended) The tank work apparatus of claim 14, wherein said work apparatus includes a work tool; said attachment flange having first and second ends; and, said attachment flange is connected to said substance tank at said first end and to said work tool at said second end.

1. (Amended) An operating substance tank ~~including an operating~~
2 ~~substance tank~~ for a portable handheld work apparatus, the
operating substance tank comprising:

5 a tank housing having a tank interior and including a first
housing part; and, a second housing part connected to said first
housing part and defining said tank interior conjointly
therewith;

10 a filter wall for trapping contaminants contained in said
operating substance and said filter wall being configured as one
piece with ~~one of~~ said first ~~and second~~ housing parts;

said filter wall partitioning extending over the interior
cross section of said tank so as to partition said tank housing

14 into at least first and second spaces; ~~and~~ ^{from housing part} ^{formed therein}
said tank including a fill opening ^{for filling said}
15 operating substance into said first space ^{and said second housing part}; ^{an outflow; including}
16 ^{formed therein} connection through which said operating substance is drawn from
said second space; and,

20 said outflow connection being disposed in said second space
downstream of said filter wall so that said contaminants are
prevented by said filter wall from clogging said outflow
connection as said operating substance is drawn by said work
apparatus during operational use thereof.

2. The tank of claim 1, said filter wall comprising a plurality
of individual lamellae and each two mutually adjacent ones of
said lamellae conjointly defining a gap; and, said plurality of
individual lamellae extending from a wall of said first housing
5 part.

3. The tank of claim 2, said first and second housing parts
conjointly defining a partition plane and said lamellae ending in
said partition plane.

4. (Amended) The tank of claim 2, each of said lamellae being
configured to be approximately S-shaped or Z-shaped when viewed
in cross section.

5. The tank of claim 1, said first space including said fill

opening and said second space including said outflow connection.

6. (Amended) The tank of claim 1, wherein ~~one of said walls of~~
said first housing part ~~defines~~ has a wall defining a plane
extending into the interior thereof; and, said filter wall is
mounted in said plane.

7. The tank of claim 1, said first and second housing parts
having first and second partition surfaces, respectively, which
conjointly define a partition interface; and, said tank further
comprising a solid matter seal arranged at said partition
interface; and, said first and second housing parts being
connected to each other with said solid matter seal being
disposed therebetween.

8. The tank of claim 1, wherein said first and second housing
parts are made of plastic.

9. The tank of claim 8, wherein said first and second housing
parts are made of fiber reinforced plastic.

10. ~~An overhead branch cutter comprising:~~

~~a work apparatus including an apparatus housing;
a rod for operatively connecting said work apparatus to said
drive motor assembly so as to permit said drive motor assembly to
drive said work apparatus;~~

~~a tank for holding an operating substance;
said tank having a tank housing having a tank interior and
including a first housing part; and, a second housing part
connected to said first housing part and defining said tank
interior conjointly therewith;~~